users also. You can add data at a speed of 128 kilobits per second on that. Basically, it depends on the users. We have not specified it for any tele-medicine purpose because its bandwidth is only 128 kbps. This is just a basic telephone; instead of a fixed wire telephone which is connected to the exchange, this is wireless. You have a phone with an antenna pointed or an external antenna connected to the rooftop in villages and far-flung areas. We are also using this service to replace the old MARR equipments which are now getting out of service.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: My question was very simple. Is this facility going to be extended to hospitals and rural areas so that the patients in rural areas can immediately get the facility of the best medical arrangement?

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: As I have said this is like a basic phone. this is a replacement for phone with wires. This is just a basic service of a phone. it depends upon the user how he wants to use it.

श्री सुरेश भारद्वाज: सभापति जी, माननीय मंत्री जी ने डब्ल्यू॰एल॰एल॰ के बारे में कहा है कि हिंदुस्तान के जो हिली एरियाज हैं, उन में डब्ल्यू॰एल॰एल॰ सर्विस का अभाव है, इनफैक्टिव है, वह चलता नहीं है। महोदय, जब सांसदों के कोटे से भी बी॰एस॰एन॰एल॰ का कनेक्शन मंजूर किया जाता है, तो वह डबल्यू॰एल॰एल॰ देते हैं, लेकिन उसे लोग नहीं ले रहे हैं। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूँगा कि जो हिली एरियाज़ हैं, जहाँ पर पहाड़ों के कारण एक स्थान से दूसरे स्थान पर यह सर्विस इफेक्टिव नहीं होती है, टेलिफोन नहीं चलता है, वहाँ पर जो वायर वाली सर्विस है, क्या उसका एक्सचेंज लगाने के लिए और उसकी सर्विस देने का प्रयास करेंगे और इसे बी॰एस॰एन॰एल॰ देगा?

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Sir, till now, we have about 39 lakhs of installed capacity of WLL, and we are in the constant process of doubling this capacity in the current financial year. Basically, wireless works at places or sites where it is possible. Like, in hilly areas, there may be some problem; because of terrains, it may not be available. We are improving this service; we are adding more BTS for this service. I think, by the end of the financial year, we can see a definite improvement in this.

Outsourcing certain work of Diplomatic Bag Section

*251. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT:
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:††

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Tapan Kumar Sen.

(a) whether Government have signed an agreement with a private cargo company for outsourcing certain nature of work of the Diplomatic Bag Section;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reason to hand over the above work to the private company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The Government on July 3rd, 2006 awarded a contract to transport and deliver to/from the airlines at the airport, closed and sealed diplomatic bags to a cargo handling company, M/s Dadson Global Cargo (Custom House Agent No. R093/98) for an initial period of six months.

In view of tightened security requirement at the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI) requiring prior X-Ray, tagging before delivery and other documentation for both outbound/incoming consignments, it was decided that the transportation of diplomatic bags from South Block and Akbar Bhawan to IGI Airport for handing over to various airlines for onward carriage to Missions and receipt of incoming diplomatic bags would be better streamlined if given to a professional agency. It was also felt that a professional agency would be able to bring about a more efficient system as they would be better equipped to carry out the specialized job. There would be no secuirty risk as the mandate of the firm would only be to transport and deliver to/from the airlines at the airport, closed and sealed diplomatic bags. After vetting of the draft contract by the Legal & Treaties Division of the Ministry and clearance from Internal Finance Division a limited tender (in view of the security and specialization requirement) was floated to 10 companies including Air India and Department of Posts. Department of Posts regretted their inability to handle the diplomatic bags outside the postal channel. Three companies, namely (i) M/s Dadson Global Cargo, D-229, Defence Colony, New Delhi (ii) K.L. Bhrara & Co. Pvt. Ltd., 42, Satya Niketan, New Delhi and (iii) M/s Mega Air and Sea Cargo, 204, 2 Community Centre, Phase-I, Naraina, New Delhi quoted for the limited tender. M/s Dadson Global Cargo was the lowest, at a figure of Rs. 14,40,000 per annum, among the valid quotes. After receiving security clearance of M/s Dadson Global

Cargo from the concerned agencies, the job of transporting and delivering closed and sealed diplomatic bags to/from the airlines at the airport was awarded to the said company.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Sir, the hon. Minister has admitted in the reply that transportation and delivery of diplomatic bags is a security sensitive aspect. My first supplementary is this. The Minister has stated that professional efficiency is required for this. Now could that professional efficiency not be created within the Government set up, within the Ministerial set up? Is it something so technology savvy? Can that professional efficiency not be created within the Government Departments? Secondly, I would like to know whether cost factor is the sole consideration for outsourcing such a security sensitive service to a private agency?

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, as I have mentioned in the reply, this decision was taken after a careful consideration. As far as diplomatic bags are concerned, they are sealed bags which are sent from two location, namely from South Block and Akbar Bhawan. They are transported to the airports and carried then by the Airlines to their destinations. The diplomatic bags were earlier also, carried by the airlines. Regarding outsourcing, there are two factors which led to this decision. Firstly, we all know that the Screening Committee of the Government of India has recommended for abolition of certain jobs, as a result of which two-thirds of vacancies, which arise every year, are actually not available, in the sense that they are abolished. Now, two officers and four other employees had to be kept exclusively for transportation of bags. This again is a two-way process because diplomatic bags are not only set but they are also received. Every week about 600 bags are sent and 300 diplomatic bags are received from various destinations. Therefore, a decision was taken to outsource, of course, on a limited aspect. Now these are the sealed bags, which are security cleared, and which are delivered at the airports by the agency which has been hired for this purpose. As far as the security aspect is concerned, that has been fully taken into consideration. That is why there was a limited tender which was given only to those cargo handlers which had the experience, which was security cleared. Actually it is only after the Bureau of Security of the Ministry and al the security agencies cleared it that this decision was taken, and the contract has been fully vetted by the legal & Treaties

Division. Just for the benefit of the hon. Member, I might add that this need was felt because these days at the airports, there are not only requirements of prior X-ray, tagging and complex documentation, both for sending the bags and for receiving the bags, but there are also formalities such as preparation of Bill of Exchange, customs clearances, etc., before the airport authority accepts the bags or Airlines delivers the bags. No security aspect has been compromised, and it would not be correct to say that only because of the cost factor and efficiency, this has been done. This was found to be practical and it is functioning well.

*252. [The questioner (Shri Ramdas Agarwal) was absent for answer *vide* page 53–66 infra].

सी॰आई॰एल॰ द्वारा कोयले की नीलामी

*253. डा॰ मुरली मनोहर जोशी:††
श्री राम जेठमलानी:

क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि गत कुछ वर्षो से कोल इंडिया लि॰ द्वारा कोयले की बिक्री की जा रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो यह प्रणाली कब शुरू की गई थी और कितनी बार नीलामी के माध्यम से कोयला बेचा गया है;

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि उक्त नीलामी के दौरान फ्लोर-प्राइज, नोटीफाइड कोयले की कीमत से अधिक तय की गई थी; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

कोयला मंत्री (श्री शिबु सोरेन) (क) से (घ) एक विवरण-पत्र सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

विवरण

(क) और (ख) जी, हां। कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड की सहायक कंपनी भारत कोकिंग कोल लि॰ (बी॰सी॰सी॰एल॰) में नवम्बर, 2004 में परीक्षण आधार पर ई-नीलामी शुरू की गई थी तथा धीरे-धीरे उसे मई, 2005 तक सभी कोयला कंपनियों में लागू किया गया था। जुलाई, 2006 तक कुल 604 नीलामियां की गई।

††सभा में यह प्रश्न डा॰ मुरली मनोहर जोशी द्वारा पूछा गया।